

Autism in Schools Project Newsletter – April 2023

What has happened in your area since January?

East Herts -Welcome to parents and carers of St Andrew's primary in Hertford, who have just joined the project, we will be in touch via the school after Easter to share how you can input.

St Joseph's school shared their 'You Said, We Did' feedback and had their first coffee morning with ADD-vance. A coffee morning was also held for St Catherine's parents and carers, which again was attended by ADD-vance. Focus groups were held for parents and carers of The Sele School and Richard Hale.

North Herts – Hitchin Boys and Fearnhill both held coffee mornings. ADD-vance and HPCI attended Fearnhill's.

St Albans – We are continuing discussions with the SENCOs at both St Albans schools- Batchwood SEMH Secondary and Aboyne Lodge Primary regarding their next steps.

Stevenage – Fairlands school had their first coffee afternoon, attended by HPCI. A focus group was held for Barnwell parents and carers. DSPL2 coffee mornings have been taking place.

Watford – Oxhey Wood (and Warren Dell) had their SPACE Lending library sessions, hosted by HPCI and SPACE. Watford Girls held a coffee morning with ADD-vance.

Welwyn/Hatfield – A Focus Group was arranged for Green Lanes Primary parents and carers.

If you could not attend your school focus group but would like to give your opinions– please do get in touch via the email address below to add your voice!

Whole project events since January

- Author Event- HPCI hosted 'An evening with Jane Franklin' at Oaklands College on 28th March. Jane spoke about her experience as a parent of an autistic child and how this led to her book. We were also lucky enough to have SPACE join us to give a talk about neurodiversity. We had stalls from Next Page Books, ADD-vance, SPACE and Angels. We hope the parents, carers, young people and school staff that attended, found it an informative and enjoyable evening. We would like to thank Jane, Chris, Charley Crowe and all of our partners that took part in this event and helped to make it a success!
- EBSA Workshops – HPCI partnered with Angels Support Group to deliver 'Emotionally Based School Avoidance' workshops for all school staff and parents/carers on the project. These were held in-person and online. We would like to thank Angels for delivering the workshops and hope everyone who attended found them useful. If you would like to give us feedback about the workshops, please contact us.

Coming soon

HPCI are hosting a coffee morning for Peartree Spring parents and carers on May 5th, school will send more information about this after Easter.

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Support organisations in Hertfordshire

www.add-vance.org

ADD-vance is a dedicated group of professionals, who also happen to be parents of children affected by ADHD and/or Autism. Our mission is to support the families of children affected by these conditions and the professionals involved in their care. We want to increase understanding, provide support, and change perceptions of these complex neurological conditions, so as to improve the wellbeing and reduce the social isolation of these young people and their families

www.angelssupportgroup.org.uk

Angels is an experience-led charity, based in Hertfordshire, which provides individualised, professional expertise and advice. We work alongside parents to build understanding and to empower them to hear their child's voice. Our key aim is to maximise the individual potential of each child and young person.

www.spaceherts.org.uk

Space is an award-winning Hertfordshire based charity supporting families of children and young people who are on the Autistic Spectrum (ASD), have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or other neurodiverse conditions.

Resources

[Herts Parent Carer Involvement Webinars](#)

HPCI Webinars are available to help increase parents and carers understanding, knowledge and confidence on a range of SEND topics - [Webinars | Herts Parent Carer Involvement \(hertsparentcarers.org.uk\)](#)

www.spectrumgaming.net

Spectrum Gaming is an online community for autistic young people which has three main intended outcomes:

- 1) Building Friendships
- 2) Increasing Self-Acceptance
- 3) Advocacy

Thank you for adding your voices to this project. We hope you found this newsletter informative.

If you would like to contact us, please email us on claire@hertsparentcarers.org.uk

Kerry Setterfield (HPCI Project Lead) and Claire Temple (Admin Support)

Herts Parent Carer Involvement – Become a member. <https://www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-member/>

Herts
Parent
Carer InV olvement

 Vista
St Albans

 DSPL7 Delivering Special
Provision Locally
Achieving quality outcomes
St Albans, Harpenden and Villages

The Hub

ASC/SEND Coffee Morning

Exciting new opportunity to join other Parents/Carers of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN), diagnosed or not, for a cuppa and chat hosted by one of our School Family Workers.

Running alongside our coffee morning, there will also be the opportunity to **pre-book** an appointment with a member from the SEND Specialist Advice and Support Service
Times available are: 9.30am, 10.00am, 11.00am and 11.30am

Time: Coffee Morning starts at 9.15am until 11.00am (no need to book)

Venue: The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW

For more information about this service or to book an appointment please call Vista/St Albans Plus on 07584 798528

Email: vistastalbans@gmail.com

Website: www.vistastalbans.org.uk



Dates 2022/23:

Wednesday 28 September 2022

Wednesday 09 November 2022

Wednesday 18 January 2023

Wednesday 08 March 2023

Wednesday 26 April 2023

Wednesday 28 June 2023